Stealing of grains from PDS

1879. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMERAFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 50 per cent of grains is stolen from Public Distribution System stores every year in the country;

(b) if so, reasons therefor; and

(c) the action being taken against the officials behind the corruption in PDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments. While the Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and transportation of foodgrains upto the Principal Distribution Centres of FCI in each State/UT, the identification of BPL families, issue of ration cards, issue of licences to the Fair Price Shops and distribution of foodgrains to the beneficiaries is the responsibility of the respective State Government/ UTs. The System works through a vast net work of 4.77 lakhs Fair Price Shops scattered all over the country in 35 States and UTs besides the nominated State agencies etc. and can not be expected to be cent per cent fool proof. However, the Government has notified the PDS (Control) Order, 2001 on 31.08.2001, issued Citizen's Charter to all the States and has advised them to involve Panchayati Raj Institutions etc. to check malpractices.

VRS in FCI

1880. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Food Corporation of India has decided to offer VRS to ten thousand employees;